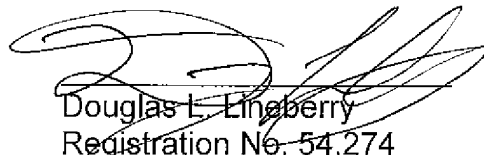


REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interviews of June 23 and 28. Currently, claims 1, 4-10, 12, 14, 17, 20-26, 28, 29, and 31-44, including independent claims 1 and 17 are pending in the present application. In the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 17 as well as dependent claims 8, 9 and 42-44 as discussed in the interviews to further patentably define over the cited references. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same. Examiner Alstrum-Acevedo is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403. Respectfully requested.

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.



Douglas L. Linberry
Registration No. 54,274
P.O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Phone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342

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